

ABSTRACT

An image coding apparatus according to the present invention is provided with, as shown in figure 2, an image feature extraction means 202 for generating character data Dc which includes character codes corresponding to character images included in a document image 201 and an auxiliary information indicating the sizes and positions of the respective character images in the document image, on the basis of image data Di indicating the document image. The image coding apparatus generates a predictive document image 205 for the document image 201 on the basis of the character data Dc and, further, subjects the document image data Di to arithmetic coding in which the probability model is changed with reference to the predictive document image data PDi.

In the image coding apparatus 202 so constructed, the probabilities of white pixels and black pixels indicated by the probability model are very close to those in the character image, whereby the coding efficiency for the character image data in the arithmetic encoder is improved.